

Bay State MGA Club Spring Tech Session Report

The Bay State MGA Club held its Spring Tech Session on April 27th, 2014 at the home of Jan and Jack Horner in Westford, MA. Members started arriving around 10 am with the weather kind of borderline sun, clouds, and rain showers. There was coffee and donuts for those arriving early. All three garage bays were cleared out so there was plenty of room to work. We started out by putting Dick Fabrizio's MGB LE on the lift for an oil change and lube. While this was going on we got started on the reupholstering of Dana Booth's MGA seats. I had to shift between jobs and supervising progress on each item. I noticed that there was no vacuum advance hose attached on Dick's distributor, so, we added that (he had changed to dual carbs and had not hooked up a vacuum line. One of the MGA seat back did not have the little wooden blocks for stapling the sides of the back to the back cardboard, so, I made some out of plywood and we stapled them in place. Once we got the backs of the MGA seats covered we worked on the bottoms to line up the pattern to match on the bottoms. We had to repair the wood on the driver side, but a small plywood patch fixed the crack. Dana had new seat cushions and I demonstrated how fabric needs to be glued around the base of the cushion to hold the staples when attaching it to the wooden base.

The next car on the lift was Judy Pruitt's MGB for an oil change and lube. While doing this we noticed that one of the shocks was leaking so, she decided to have me order those and they would be installed at a later date. Paul Zink came with his MGB GT and he was kind enough to man the grille while I worked on the various projects. The weather was cooperating by this time and it was nice on the back deck overlooking the wetlands. We served hot dogs and hamburgers with chips and there were various other goodies for everyone to enjoy. I had a chance to talk with Michael Crawford about his British Car Repair business in Hopkinton, MA. He has been helping several club members and other people I know with their MGAs. If you need any work done, don't hesitate to call him at (617) 320-2647.

The next car on the lift was Ira Cohen's MGA for a lube and oil change. We were going to also do a tie rod end change, but once we got the tie rod end off we realized that the tie rod itself was cross threaded and needed to be replaced. We found another used on in my stockpile of parts and will use that another time to do the repair. We did not have time to do this work as we were running out of time, so, we put everything back together and it was still safe enough to drive. Pete Wadsworth's MGA was the last on the lift for an oil change and lube. It was near 4 pm and several folks had already left by then.

Dana and I stayed in the garage and finished his seats about 5 am and that was the final wrap up for the day. Overall it was a good turnout and most members got the work done on their cars that they had intended to get done as well as there was plenty of time to kick tires and tell stories and socialize.

By the time you read this the BSMGAC Spring Tour will be over but we will be sure to get an article out regarding it. Thank you to all who came out for the Tech Session. I look forward to seeing you at other events this year.

Safety Fast,

Jack Horner

Jack working on the seats for Dana Booth



Some of the cars at the tech session

